REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1, 3, and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5, 7, and 8 were objected to for containing various informalities. Applicants have amended the claims to correct these informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these objections are moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Gitlin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,625); and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over AAPA in view of Gitlin and further in view of Odenwalder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,051). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites, in part, an apparatus for obtaining multiple subchannels within a traffic channel, that includes a plurality of subchannel encoders substituted for said channel encoder, each for convolutionally encoding with symbol repetition and interleaving input data from a respective one of a plurality of subchannels, a data rate of each of the plurality of subchannels being lower than an encodable date rate of the traffic channel by said channel encoder. Specifically, claim 1 recites an apparatus that is capable of creating addition channels from the existing channels in a system by dividing a channel into subchannels with lower data rates.

In contrast, Gitlin relates to a system for increasing the data rate available to a user. Specifically, Gitlin creates additional channels using coders 201, 221, and 241, etc. In fact, Gitlin specifically discloses that the user can select a basic bit rate R or a multiple M of the basic rate R, where M is greater than 1 (i.e., a user can select the channel rate R or some rate M*R that is greater than R). See, for example, column 1, lines 50-60. Gitlin is silent regarding dividing a channel into subchannels since Gitlin actually combines channels. As admitted in the office Action, on page 3, AAPA does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, AAPA does not remedy the deficiencies of Gitlin discussed above. Accordingly, no combination of AAPA and Gitlin teaches or suggests an apparatus for obtaining multiple subchannels within a traffic channel, that includes a plurality of subchannel encoders substituted for said channel encoder, each for convolutionally encoding with symbol repetition and interleaving input data from a respective one of a plurality of subchannels, a data rate of

each of the plurality of subchannels being lower than <u>an</u> encodable date rate of the traffic channel by said channel encoder, as recited in claim 1.

Claim 6 is believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 because claim 6 recites features that are similar to the features of claim 1 discussed above. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claims 1 and 6 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1 and 6. Claim 5 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of its dependence upon claim 1 and because Odenwalder does not remedy at least the deficiencies of AAPA in view of Gitlin discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter. However, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims (claims 1-8) are in condition for allowance.
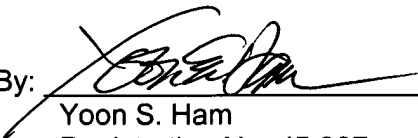
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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